IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.

09/529,717

Confirmation No.: 3228

Applicant

KIMURA et al. Filed: August 22, 2000

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Examiner

Rabon A. Sergent

Docket No.

7372/70942

Customer No.

42798

September 9, 2004

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office 220 20th Street, South Customer Window - Mail Stop AF Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03 Arlington, VA 22202

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of March 15, 2004, please amend the aboveidentified application as follows:

- (1) Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.
 - (2) Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.